

THE NUNES REPORT

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Rep. Nunes unveils roads agenda

"This is an opportunity for the Central Valley to get back some of the dollars we lose every year to the federal government."

Fighting for the Central Valley's fair share of transportation dollars, Rep. Devin Nunes is seeking funding for crucial projects in Fresno and Tulare counties.

At a press conference in Visalia, Mr. Nunes laid out his transportation agenda for the next several years, including a focus on widening stretches of Highway 99 from two to three lanes, repairing farm-to-market roads and improving traffic conditions around the CSUF Save Mart Center and Fresno Yosemite International Airport, among others.

Mr. Nunes submitted the requests to be included in the second round of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). When first enacted, the act authorized a total of \$218 billion for federal highway and mass transit programs from FY1998 to FY2003, and set aside over \$12 billion for several programs to mitigate the environmental impacts of surface transportation. That helped pay for the UC Cam-



Congressman Devin Nunes addresses the media with Tulare County Supervisor Connie Conway on vital transportation projects for the 21st Congressional District.

pus Parkway Loop System in Merced, the extension of Highway 180 between Highway 99 and the Hughes/West Diagonal, to extend Highway 41 in Madera County and to construct roads in Tulare County.

For the 108th Congress, Mr. Nunes has submitted requests for funds on nine projects in both counties.

"This is an opportunity for the Central Valley to get back some of the dollars we lose every year to the federal government," Mr. Nunes said. "And with California's budget woes looming ever larger,

this may be the only chance for some of these critical projects to get the financing they need to be completed."

Mr. Nunes emphasized the need to widen nearly 25 miles of Highway 99. Officials for the state Department of Transportation estimate traffic volumes along the highway will double by 2020.

Among the requests Mr. Nunes submitted:

Highway 99

\$158 million to widen 24.9 miles of Highway 99 in Tulare County from near Tulare to north of the Conejo Avenue over-crossing.

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Tulare Union High School students Maria Olivarez, Robert Perez, Esiquio Franco in Washington with the Close Up Foundation visit with Rep. Nunes (March 2003).

